

"quick and powerful" and "shall accomplish that" whereunto it is sent. Let the Word "dwell among us."

When we "have faith in God" to believe without reservation that nothing is impossible with him, or too hard for him to do, and that he is the same today yesterday and forever, we shall have flowing from our inner life, rivers of living water. We too shall enter into the divine joy, seeing that which was dead and "without hope" born again and partaking of the "divine nature" being "changed from glory to glory" in which God is once again "both to will and to do" of his own pleasure.

O, God give us faith in thee and thy Word, to speak it and expect results, to command and realize that it accomplishes its mission.

#### OUR CONFERENCE

J. L. GILLIN.

Inasmuch as the decisions of our Conference are only advisory, not mandatory, the great object should be not legislative but educational and spiritual. In our early history as legislative bodies they were necessary, but with our form of government once declared, and the necessary machinery organized the legislative function becomes almost obsolete and the educational and spiritual interests should be emphasized.

As our church government is based on the intelligent consent of the governed, it follows that we shall make progress only as we become informed on the principles of our religion. Uniformity when based on ignorance and force, is worse than useless, but when it comes as a result of intelligent assent to our Testament principles is not to be condemned. However, uniformity is not so essential as honesty of purpose and sincere desire to know the truth.

Ignorance is the parent of the hide-bound conservatism that will not follow the leadings of a truth that is new to us. On the other hand, progress is not made by swift and undeliberate jumping at conclusions.

The only real progress will come from agitation, education. This is illustrated in every good cause in Christendom.

It was persistent agitation by those considered "cranks" that made of the conservative Scotch church the great missionary church of today.

The continued persistent words of Garrison, the patient thundering of Wendall Phillips, and the steady stream of liberty-breathing poetry from the pen of Whittier brought an end to slavery. Without these the country would not have been educated to the point necessary to give an intelligent judgment on the great question of slavery.

It has been so with the temperance question. It is so with any great

thought. Persistence wins. Even error can be made to seem truth by persistence and pluck.

Hence, if we are to follow the declaration made at the beginning of our history that we will follow the truth no matter where it leads, it is necessary that at our conference our brightest and best minds and hearts should give us the results of their study, and of their soul-experiences.

Therefore, it seems that the tendency of our last few National Conferences to give more time to instructive papers and spiritual talks by our best men and women, is a move in the right direction.

Plans and schemes are good when built upon experience and reason, and will be carried out by our people when once they shall intelligently see their necessity.

That is the best reason why the great questions of religious life should be discussed. Missions cannot prosper among us until the people shall feel the heart ache of God for lost souls. And when by agitation the membership and ministry of the church shall feel the travails of Christ for the birth of a higher life among professing Christians and for the bringing of lost souls into saving relation with His endless life, they will freely give to carry the gospel everywhere.

When the members of the church shall see the great need for an endowed institution of learning for the education of our youth coupled with instruction in godliness, then they will remember Ashland in their wills, and some of the thousands that go to the worthless sons and daughters will be given to our college to be used for the glory of God. But it will never be, until human words backed by the divine Spirit shall produce the conviction that it should be so.

I'm trusting then that the coming conference will be one of power. Let the sessions be full of papers and speeches, alive with intelligence and wisdom and afire with God's Holy Spirit.

Let the people who come go home feeling that there has been opened to their minds and hearts new visions of duty and glory in Christ Jesus. And from the conference shall flow thro the whole year blessings to pastors and to flocks scattered from the Atlantic to the Peaceful Ocean.

Let California send to beautiful Winoona her contingent of Brethren to carry back to her golden valleys the memories of days spent in close communion with God by the side of beautiful Eagle Lake, and a zeal for Christ and the "Gospel alone doctrine," not only fiery, but intelligent as well.

Let the Old Dominion send with her Moomaws and Shavers her lesser lights and a strong representation of her laity

that they may carry back to their green valleys and purple mountains some of the power that shall be given by God at our coming conference.

#### MUSIC A NECESSITY

J. H. HALL.

Sacred music is just as necessary for our spiritual growth and development as bread and meat is for our physical growth and development. Do you believe it? Allow me to say that if you do not, perhaps you have never allowed yourself to come in divine touch with the music of the soul.

Praise is more frequently spoken of in the Bible than prayer. A church cannot be without music; that would be like a bell without a clapper. A musical church is a triumphant church. The Sunday-school cannot get along without music; that would be like a stream without a living fountain—it would dry up. The home cannot be without music and be a home in the fullest sense; it would be like a home without a mother.

God has put music in all nature for our enjoyment, and the influence that the music of nature wields over man is far beyond our conceptions and appreciation. Take the music out of the church, the Sunday school, the home, and out of all nature, and this world would be nothing but a mass of confusion.

Music is one of the greatest of civilizing powers; therefore, every Christian should strive to cultivate sacred song, not only in him or herself, but wherever and whenever opportunity presents itself for the betterment of humanity in general. I believe this a sacred duty as much as any other Christian duty.

Bach says, "One of the noblest objects of music is the spread of religion and the elevation of the human soul." God inclined the human heart to love music; He honors music in his Word; it is connected with some of the most important sacred events. Music is love and emanated from God and must lead to him again. Oh, may we all see and realize more and more the great necessity of music! "O, sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord."

It is no great matter to associate with the good and gentle, for this is naturally pleasing to all, and every one willingly enjoyeth peace, and loveth those best that agree with him. But to be able to live peaceably with hard and perverse persons, or with the disorderly, or with such as go contrary to us, is a great grace, and a most commendable and manly thing.—Thomas Kempis.

The Lord may lead you round, but he will lead you right.